

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 20th Day of May 1779.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.



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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 20th Day of *May* 1779, and
concluded the 31st *May*, said year.

I.

The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl
of DALHOUSIE produced, and order-
ed to be recorded.

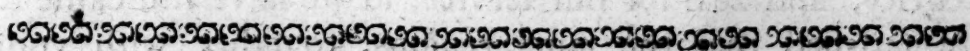
Edinburgh, May 20. 1779.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was
produced to them, by the Right Honourable
GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Com-
mission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of
Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the
Great

Great Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei, Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum diem Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debito observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et predilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Georgii Comitis de Dalhousie, quod ad summum munus postea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, hoc nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum fidelissimum et predelectissimum consanguineum Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicti generalis ecclesiæ conventus Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter presentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto Georgio Comite de Dalhousie, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper antedictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteriis, cæterisque quibuscunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, quibuscunque cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Georgium Comitem de Dalhousie, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius*
audientes

audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. presentibus appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, septimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo septuagesimo nono, regnique nostri anno decimo nono. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

G E O R G E R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, we greet you well. Having the most entire confidence in the duty, loyalty, and affection of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and having received such repeated proofs of their constant attention to promote the cause of religion and virtue, which we have above all things at heart; we have great pleasure in assuring you of our most favourable and gracious dispositions towards you, and of our resolution to support that Church in all its rights and privileges, as by law established. We have no doubt of your exerting yourselves with a truly Christian zeal, and conformably to the intent of your meeting, in the discouragement of vice and licentiousness; and you may rely upon our ready concurrence with you in every thing that may tend to the advancement of purposes so essential to the welfare of our people.

The instilling into the minds of those committed to your charge a devout reverence towards Almighty God, an humble gratitude to his divine providence for his in-

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numerable

numerable mercies, and the suppressing of impiety and immorality, are objects of such importance, that we are persuaded they will meet with your most serious attention, and heartiest endeavours; and we shall receive the highest satisfaction in being informed of your having applied yourselves, with your accustomed piety and prudence, to matters so well deserving our recommendation, and all your care.

We have appointed our right trusty and well-beloved cousin, George Earl of Dalhousie, to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly; and as our appointment of him arises from the experience we have had of his loyalty, integrity, and zeal for our service, so we have full cause to be satisfied that the same reasons, together with your knowledge of his fitness to discharge this important trust, and of his affection to the Church of Scotland, will render our choice of him to discharge the said office very agreeable to you.

We conclude with recommending to you such temper and moderation in all your proceedings, and such charity, brotherly love, and unanimity, as may secure a happy conclusion to this your meeting. And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1779, in the nineteenth year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

(Signed) W E Y M O U T H.

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### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

THE gracious letter, with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to so distinguished a mark of your Royal favour.

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The entire confidence which your Majesty is pleased to express, in the duty, loyalty, and affection of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, affords us the highest satisfaction, and excites in our breasts the strongest desire to merit the continuance of your Royal approbation, by a constant attention to promote the cause of religion and virtue, those objects which your Majesty's whole conduct convinces us you have above all things at heart.

We receive with the highest pleasure every renewed assurance of your Majesty's favourable and gracious dispositions towards us ; and we rely with the firmest security upon your resolution to support the Church of Scotland in all its rights and privileges, as by law established.

Your Majesty's most gracious promise, of your ready concurrence with us in every thing which may tend to the discouragement of vice and licentiousness, animates us to exert ourselves with Christian zeal in the advancement of purposes so conformable to the intent of our meeting, and so essential to the welfare of your people.

We are convinced that the instilling into the minds of those committed to our charge a devout reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble gratitude to his divine providence for his innumerable mercies, and the suppressing of impiety and immorality, are objects worthy of our most serious attention, and our heartiest endeavours. We rejoice that we are the subjects of a prince, who is a pattern of piety and virtue to his people, and who, as a true nursing-father of the Church, calls its ministers by his authority to the faithful discharge of the important duties of their sacred function. Under your Majesty's auspicious protection, with the blessings of Almighty God, we entertain the best hope of success ; and, roused by your exhortations, we shall apply to the matters which you have so warmly recommended in such a manner, as may give us the well grounded hope of having a favourable report of our proceedings made to your Majesty.

We beg leave to return our humble and grateful acknowledgments to your Majesty for your attention to the propagation of Christian knowledge, and the principles of the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland ;



Scotland ; parts of your Majesty's dominions in which the interests of religion and government do, in a particular manner, coincide. It shall be our study to apply your Majesty's Royal donation for that purpose with the most prudent care, so as most effectually to answer the pious and useful design for which it is bestowed.

The approved fidelity and ability of the noble Lord whom your Majesty has appointed to represent your Royal person in this General Assembly, his affection for the Church of Scotland, and the happy experience of former Assemblies, render the nomination of him so agreeable to us, that we regard it as an additional mark of your Royal favour.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall endeavour to conduct our deliberations with that temper and moderation, and to maintain that charity, brotherly love, and unanimity, which your Majesty is pleased to recommend, which are highly becoming the character that we bear, and without which the decisions of an Ecclesiastical Assembly cannot be attended with their due effect.

That Almighty God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect your person, prolong your days, and establish your throne in righteousness ; that the Divine favour may ever attend your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen ; that he may bless his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with such qualities as suit his exalted station ; that he may pour down blessings upon all the Royal Family ; and that, after reigning long with wisdom and felicity upon earth, you may ascend those happy regions where pious and virtuous Princes shall receive an unfading Crown, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 22, 1779,

JAMES GILLESPIE, *Moderator.*

IV. The



## IV.

The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty, on the birth of another Prince, and on the present situation of affairs.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**WE**, your Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in national Assembly, beg leave to approach your throne with our respectful congratulations upon the birth of another Prince. While we rejoice in every event which augments the domestic felicity of a Sovereign endeared to his people by his amiable virtues, we regard the encrease of your Majesty's family as an additional security to our religion and liberties; and we number, with much satisfaction and thankfulness, the Princes born in the Royal family, as raised up, by the Divine Providence, to afford your subjects the happy prospect of enjoying, through a course of ages, under the protection of your Majesty's descendants, that full exercise of the Protestant religion, and those civil immunities which the illustrious house of Hanover was called to maintain, and of which your Majesty has been the faithful guardian.

In this season of national exertion, and public alarm, we consider it as our duty to express an inviolable attachment to your Majesty's person and government: And we are happy in being able to assure your Majesty, that the same sentiments of duty and affection which we entertain, prevail amongst the people committed to our care. That loyalty, which prompted the exertions lately made in this part of your Majesty's dominions, for internal security, and the support of the national honour, remains unshaken. The open assistance given by the natural rivals and enemies of Great Britain to the rebellious colonies in North America, has united all ranks of men in zeal for the common cause. They rejoice in the success which attends your Majesty's arms in different quarters of the world: They confide in the wisdom and vigour of your Majesty's Councils; and they look forward,



ward, trusting in the Almighty, with the solicitude of good citizens, to a happy termination of the present commotions.

It shall be our constant study to cherish these sentiments of loyalty in the breasts of our people, and to approve ourselves the dutiful servants of the Prince of Peace, by inspiring those over whom we have influence with the warmest sense of the security and felicity which they enjoy under your Majesty's mild, legal, and paternal administration.

That the Lord God of Hosts may go forth with your Majesty's fleets and armies, and crown them with victory; that he may defeat the designs of our enemies; that he may open the eyes of our deluded fellow-subjects; that the authority of law, and the blessings of liberty, may be speedily felt and acknowledged throughout all the parts of this extended empire; and that your Majesty may long reign the Sovereign of a free, a happy, and united people, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH,  
May 22, 1779.

JAMES GILLESPIE, *Moderator.*

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## V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint, the Rev. Dr James Gillespie minister of the gospel at St Andrew's, their Moderator, all the ministers



ministers who are members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William Dalglish at Peebles, Mr George Goldie at Athelstaneford, Dr Walter Anderson at Chirnside, Mr William Burn at Minto, Mr James Erskine at Robertson, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr John M'Naught at Girthon, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorbie, Mr William Learmonth at Oldluc, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr George Lourie at Loudon, Mr Colin Gillies at Greenock, Mr James Meek at Cambuslang, Mr Joseph Hodgson at Carmunnock, Mr Duncan M'Farlane at Drumin, Mr John M'Kinnon at Kilfinan, Mr William Muat at Gia, Mr Paul Fraser at Craigneish, Mr John Smith at Kilbranden, Mr Norman M'Leod at Morvern, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Torosay, Mr John M'Aulay at Cardross, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr John Hoyer at Dalgety, Mr Patrick Wright at Kennoway, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Principal Watson, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Dr James Blinshall at Dundee, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothick, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr George Mark at Petercoulter, Mr John Lumfden at Strathdon, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr William Fraser at Tyrie, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr John Cupar at Glas, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr Walter Morison at Ardersier, Mr Alexander Fraser at Inverness, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr John Calder at Roskine, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr John Nicolson at Portree, Mr Malcolm M'Caskill at Small Isles, Mr Hugh Monro at Uig, Mr John M'Queen at Applecrofs, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr John Thomson at Deerness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr John Scollay at St Andrew's and Deerness, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr James Leslie at Rousay, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, the late Moderator, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, and Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrahillis, ministers ;



nisters; the Hon. Charles Hope-Wier, Bailie William Galloway, Bailie John Learmonth, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, Professor Dalziel, Mr John Dickson advocate, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr Alexander Stevenson advocate, the Lord President, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; Hugh Dalrymple of North-Berwick, Esq; George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeiton, Esq; Richard Anderson of Winterfield, Esq; Mathew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. the Lord Advocate, the Earl of Lauderdale, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; Mr Mark Pringle advocate, Professor George Jardine, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; Mr Alexander Millar advocate, William Wallace of Sauchrie, Esq; the Earl of Hyndford, Professor William Richardson, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. Mr James Colquhoun advocate, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; Major John Melvill of Cairnie, Mr Solicitor-Murray, Mr James Loch writer, Allan M'Dougal of Hayfield, Esq; Bailie Thomas Elder, Sir John Belshes, Bart. Bailie James Gentle, Dr John Steedman, Dean of Guild John Grieve, Professor John Hunter, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate, Mr William Chalmers writer, Mr Alexander Hart writer, Mr John Scott advocate, Captain Robert Moodie, Mr Thomas Scott writer to the signet, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet, Lord Westhall, Mr John Taylor writer to the signet, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician, Bailie John Lothian, Mr Ludovick Grant jun. writer, Mr Simon Frazer advocate, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet, Bailie John Walker, Lord Ankerville, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, the Procurator, Mr William M'Donald writer, Mr John Ruffel jun. writer, Mr George Sinclair writer, Conveener Thomas Herriot, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, and Mr Andrew M'Ara merchant, ruling elders; to be a committee of this Assembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are impowered to chule  
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their Moderator and clerk, to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant ; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress : And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies : Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick ; and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the committee are impowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies ; and to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of their designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all



the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the o'clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission



commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do, by these presents, nominate and appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And impowered the committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

## VI. Commission



## VI.

## Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Rev. Dr James Gillespie, minister of the Gospel at St Andrew's, their moderator; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Alexander Webster, Principal Robertson, Dr John Drysdale, and Dr Robert Dick, of Edinburgh, Mr John Chiesly at Corstorphine, Dr John M'Farlane, Canongate, ministers, the Hon. Charles Hope-Weir, Bailie William Galloway, and Bailie John Learmonth, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh; from the University of Edinburgh, Professor Andrew Dalziel; from the Church of Campvere, Mr James Yair at Campvere, and Mr John Home, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenside, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr William Garvie at West Calder, Mr James Dobie at Mid Calder, ministers, Charles Hope-Weir of Craigiehall, Esq; and Provost Robert Clerk, ruling elders; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan merchant in Queensferry; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholme, Mr William Howe at Skirling, Mr James Ferguson at Dolphington, ministers, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Muschet at Tweedsmuir, Mr William Dalglish at Peebles, ministers, the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Mr Alexander Stevenson advocate; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Alexander Colvil at Ormiston, Mr William Sprot at Fala, ministers, the Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Scot at Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvet, Mr George Goldie at Atholstaneford, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston,



ston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spot, Mr George Bruce at Dunbar, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeaton, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Richard Anderson of Winterfield, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Douglas at Bunkle, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chirnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Chirnside, Mr James Bell at Coldstream, ministers, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelfo, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Scot at Stitchill, ministers, the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr James Lowrie at Hawick, Mr Thomas Elliot at Caverse, Mr William Burn at Minto, ministers, Mr John Lowrie preacher of the gospel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Earl of Lauderdale; from the presbytery of Lauder, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smaillholme, Mr Laurence Johnston at Earlston, ministers, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, Thomas Hogg younger of Newliston, Esq; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Simon Halyburton at Ashkirk, Mr James Erskine at Robertoun, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scot at Ewes, ministers, Mr Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichal, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, ministers, Mr Peter Halliday in Barntimpan, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, Mr Andrew Yorston at Closeburn, ministers, Gilbert Grierson of Mernwhern, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Professor George Jardine; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr John Ewart at Traquair, Mr Archibald Lawson at Kirkmachoe, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, ministers, Mr Robert Jackson printer in Dumfries, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr



John Scott at Twynholme, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John M'Naught at Girthon, ministers, Mr Alexander Brown in High Borgie, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr Samuel Brown at Kirkmabreck, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorbie, ministers, Alexander Miller, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr William Donaldson at Ballentrae, Mr William Learmonth at Old Luce, ministers, Robert Cathcart of Geenoch, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr William Auld at Mauchline, Mr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr Duncan M'Myne at Dalmellington, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr George Smith at Galston, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; William Wallace of Sauchrie, Esq; ruling elders ; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Thomas Maxwell at Stewarton, Mr George Lowrie at Loudon, Mr Thomas Pollock at Kilwinning, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Irvine, Mr John Bushby writer in Dumfries ; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Forrest at Port Glasgow, Mr Colin Gillies at Greenock, ministers, Bailie William Orr of Paisley, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr William Adam in Mosslands of Renfrew ; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Park at Old Monkland, Mr James Meek at Cambuslang, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, ministers, Thomas Hamilton of Greathill, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr John Kingan at Crawford, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, ministers, the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr William Thom at Govan, Mr Joseph Hodgson at Carmunnock, Mr John Hamilton at Cathcart, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, ministers, Professor John Anderson, Mr Robert Auchincloss cooper in Glasgow, ruling elder ; from the University of Glasgow, Professor William Richardson ; from the presbytery of Dunbarton, Mr Duncan M'Farlane at Drummen, Mr John Davidson at Old Kirk-Patrick, Mr John M'Caulay at Cardross, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder ; from the burgh of Dunbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; advocate ; from the presbytery of Dunnoon, Mr John Melvill at Dunnoon, Mr John M'Kinnon at Kilfinnan, ministers, John Lamont, Esq; of Lamont, ruling elder ;  
from



from the burgh of Rothfay, Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Millan of Dunmore, Esq; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr William M<sup>c</sup>Leod at Campbelton, Mr John Wodrow at Kildalton, Mr William Muat at Ghia, ministers, Major John Melvill of Cairnie, ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, Mr Solicitor Murray; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Paul Frazer at Craignish, Mr Daniel Hyndman at South Knapdale, ministers, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchattan, Mr John Smith at Kilbrandan, ministers, Colonel Campbell of Moonzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Norman M<sup>c</sup>Leod at Morvern, Mr Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Arthur at Torosay, ministers, Allan M<sup>c</sup>Dougall of Hayfield, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr James Gow at Cargill, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergaven, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkmichael, ministers, Professor Adam Ferguson, Bailie Thomas Elder, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Archibald Stevenson at St Madoes, Mr Hary Inglis at Fortiviot, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr John Baird at Collace, ministers, Sir John Belches, Bart. Bailie John Caw merchant in Perth, ruling elders; from the burgh of Perth, Provost William Stewart; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Oswald at Clackmannan, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, ministers, William Morehead, Esq; of Herbertshire, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr David Kemp at Gask, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr John Stevenson at Blackford, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunblane, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhidder, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, ministers, Captain John Graham of Duchray, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr James Reid at Beith, Mr John Hoyes at Dalgety, ministers, Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Mr David Beatson, merchant in Dunfermline; from the burgh of Culrofs, Mr David Ireland town-clerk of Culrofs; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Willies at Leslie, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr Patrick Wright at Kennoway, ministers, James Townsend Oswald, Esq;



Esq; ruling elder ; from the burgh of Kinghorn, John Grieve, Esq; present Dean of Guild of Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Coleffie, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, ministers, William Peaston of Soutra, Esq; and Mr James Walker of Daftmiln, ruling elders ; from the burgh of Coupar, John Balfour of Balbirney, Esq; from the presbytery of St Andrew's, Dr John Adamson at St Andrew's, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monans, Principal Watson, Professor George Hill, ministers, Mr James Chalmers merchant in Anstruther-Easter, ruling elder ; from the burgh of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan physician in Edinburgh ; from the University of St Andrew's, Professor John Hunter ; from the burgh of Crail, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate ; from the burgh of Anstruther-Wester, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh: from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr Alexander Small at Newtyle, Mr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, ministers, Patrick Alifon of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr William Adie at Kirrymuir, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, William Adam, Esq; younger of Maryburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr James Blinshall at Dundee, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Imlach at Muirhouse, ministers, Mr John Thoms merchant in Dundee, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothock, ministers, The Hon. Baron Maule, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Hart, clerk of Justiciary; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr John Taylor at Lethnot, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, ministers, John Scot, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Brechin, Mr John Clerk merchant in Brechin ; from the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Mudie ship-master in Leith ; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Allardice at Glenbervie, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, ministers, Mr Thomas Scot writer to the signet, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Principal Campbell, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Machar, Professor Gerard, Mr George Mark at Peterculture, ministers,

James



James Cunninghame of Hyndhope, Esq; and John Clerk of Elden, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr John Lumsden at Strathdon, Mr James Gordon at Cabrach, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, ministers, Mr Alexander Abercrombie clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr John Likely at Old Meldrum, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keithhall, ministers, the Right Hon. Lord Westhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Frazer at Tyrie, ministers, Mr John Taylor clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquill, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr John Cooper at Glas, ministers, the Hon. Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Dundurcus, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Robert Farquarson at Kirkmichael, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Elgin, Mr Francis Grant, younger of Mundole; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, jun. writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Walter Morison at Arderfier, ministers, Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, ministers, Simon Frazer, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, ministers, Bailie John Walker, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr John Calder at Rosekeene, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir-Easter, ministers, Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Angus Bethune



at Alness, ministers, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, ministers, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr John Nicholson at Portree, Mr Malcolm M'Casill at Small Isles, ministers, James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackie at Barvas, Mr Hugh Monro at Uig, ministers, the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr John M'Queen at Applecrofs, ministers, William M'Donald of Rennetton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr William Gun at Golspey, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, ministers, Mr John Russel jun. writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tongue, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillies, Mr John Thomson at Durness, ministers, the Hon. George M'Kay of Reay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, ministers, Mr George Sinclair writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrew's and Deerness, Mr John Yule at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr Thomas Herriot wright in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Charles Innes, Esq; late Dean of Guild of Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, Mr James Bremner at Walls, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr James Leslie at Rousay, Mr William Clouston at Crosskirk, ministers, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, ministers, and Dean of Guild Grieve, ruling elder; and the Assembly added thereto Dr George Wishart, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten  
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of the clock in the forenoon ; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator : And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly ; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly ; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets ; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality,



morality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned : And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same ; declaring that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners, particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the



the diets thereof ; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same : And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions, relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been sometimes the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission : And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.—And the Assembly further did, and hereby do, appoint the Commission to watch over any steps which may hereafter be taken for removing or weakening our legal securities against Popery. And that they may be able more effectually to attend to this object, the Assembly hereby authorise and appoint the Moderator of the Commission to call meetings *pro re nata*, as often as he shall be required so to do by any ten members of the Commission.



## VII.

## Act and Resolution of the General Assembly anent Popery.

*Edinburgh, May 25th 1779.*

THE General Assembly proceeded, agreeable to the resolution of yesterday, to take under their serious consideration the overtures transmitted by the Committee for overtures to this Assembly concerning Popery: The several overtures were read over, and, after long reasoning on this affair, the General Assembly, agreeable to a motion made in the course of their reasonings, *unanimously* came to the following resolution: The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, having taken into their serious consideration the public alarm excited in this part of the united kingdom, from the apprehension of an intention to repeal the laws enacted to prevent the growth of Popery, think it their duty to make this public declaration of their sentiments, on a subject in which the interests of religion and of their country are so deeply concerned. While they express their gratitude to Providence, for the invaluable privileges enjoyed by this national Church, and the security afforded to the Protestant religion by established laws, they declare their firm attachment to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and their earnest desire that universal toleration and liberty of conscience may be extended to Protestants of every denomination: But they think it their duty also to declare their firm persuasion, that a repeal of the penal laws now in force against Papists would be highly inexpedient, dangerous, and prejudicial to the best interests of religion and civil society in this part of the united kingdom.— Entertaining these sentiments, it is with much satisfaction they have received assurances, from the highest authority, that the bill intended for repealing the laws for preventing the growth of Popery in Scotland is laid aside; and they confide in the wisdom of Legislature that it will not in future be resumed. They likewise think it their duty, on this occasion, to express their strongest disapprobation of those lawless mobs, which have so lately disgraced the  
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good cause which, in the blindness of popular zeal, they were meant to serve; and earnestly recommend it to the people under their care to shew the influence of their religion by a quiet and charitable spirit, approving themselves worthy of their civil and religious liberties by a peaceable and moderate behaviour. The General Assembly further judge it expedient and necessary to give particular instructions to their Commission on this subject; and they did, and hereby do, appoint the Commission to watch over any steps which may hereafter be taken for removing, or weakening our legal securities against Popery: And, that they may be able more effectually to attend to this object, the Assembly hereby authorise and appoint the Moderator of the Commission to call meetings *pro re nata*, as often as he shall be required so to do by any ten members of the Commission. The General Assembly do further resolve to exert their most effectual endeavours, in order to provide for the better instruction of the people in those corners of the Church where Popery chiefly abounds, by increasing the number of stated Pastors among them.

### VIII.

#### Regulations respecting the Chapel of Ease in Dunfermline.

I. **T**HE General Assembly allow and authorise the petitioners to employ any licentiate, or minister of the Church of Scotland, to officiate occasionally in the meeting-house, now to be used as a Chapel of Ease, until a stated minister be appointed; it being always understood, that, previous to their employing any minister or probationer, they shall lodge a list of the names of such persons as they intend to employ, before they preach in the Chapel; and every probationer shall lodge his licence, and other certificates, in the hands of the Moderator of the presbytery, before preaching in the Chapel.

II. The petitioners shall proceed to the election of a stated minister on or before the first of May next.

III. When the petitioners resolve to proceed to an election, they shall intimate their resolution to the presbytery



tery of Dunfermline, requesting them to appoint one of their number to preside at that election ; and the presbytery is hereby enjoined to comply with that request within a fortnight at farthest after it is made. If the presbytery make no appointment within the time limited, or if the person nominated by the presbytery does not attend, the petitioners are authorised to proceed to the election by themselves.

IV. If the person elected shall be a probationer, the presbytery is appointed to proceed to ordain him to the office of a minister according to the rules of the Church. If the person elected shall be an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland, it shall be competent for any of the ministers of the parish to preach along with the person elected, and introduce him to the Chapel of Ease ; or if they shall decline that service, when application is made to them, this shall be competent for any other minister of the presbytery.

V. It shall not be competent for the petitioners to elect any minister or probationer, to be minister of the Chapel of Ease, but one entirely of the principles of the Church of Scotland, with regard to worship, doctrine, discipline, and government, and who shall subscribe the standards and *Formula* enjoined by the Church ; it being also understood and provided, that the petitioners and others, who shall form the congregation that meets in the Chapel of Ease, shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland, and her different judicatories.

VI. That collections shall be made regularly at the doors of the Chapel, and the sums arising therefrom shall be applied as part of the common fund, for the maintenance of the poor of the parish.

VII. That before the presbytery ordain a probationer, or introduce a minister to the said Chapel, the petitioners shall lay before the presbytery a security which appears to the presbytery sufficient, for a sum not less than fifty pounds Sterling, as his yearly stipend, so long as he shall continue to officiate in that congregation ; and if the presbytery entertain any doubt concerning the validity of the security which is offered, the same shall be transmitted to the Procurator of the Church for his opinion ; and the presbytery is appointed to proceed according to that opinion.

IX. Act



## IX.

Act concerning Persons going to be  
licensed and ordained without the  
bounds of this Church.

*Edinburgh, 28th May 1779.*

THE General Assembly, upon the report of their Committee for Overtures, finding that a considerable majority of the presbyteries of this Church have now agreed to an overture anent persons going to be licensed and ordained without the bounds of this Church, did thereupon agree, without a vote, to turn the said overture into a standing act; and accordingly the General Assembly did and hereby do enact and prohibit all persons, educated or residing within the bounds of this Church, from going out of its bounds to obtain licences to preach; and prohibit all preachers, licensed by this Church, from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unless they are called to a particular congregation in another country: And enact, that licences obtained in that manner shall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and such preachers as contravene this act shall forfeit the licence formerly given them, and be no longer entitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the gospel in this Church.

## X.

*[The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.]*

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

*Edinburgh, May 29th 1779.*

THE Presbytery of Edinburgh overture to the General Assembly: That whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination  
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of Elders, it should be enacted, That no minister shall set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in it, or such property as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture, to prevent elders being ordained in congregations, who are in no way connected with them. The presbytery recommend it to their members to present and support said overture; and further give power to their Moderator, Dr Erskine, and Mr David Johnston, to appear and support the same. Extracted by

JAMES CRAIG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

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## XI.

### Overture anent licensing Probationers.

**T**HE General Assembly, taking into their serious consideration the danger that ariseth to this Church, and to the souls of people, by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and considering that the several acts made by former General Assemblies, lye so scattered in many separate articles, at great distances from one another, that the directions therein given are in danger of being overlooked by presbyteries: Therefore the General Assembly, collecting what appears to them most material in former acts, ordain, That the following regulations shall be strictly observed by presbyteries in all time coming.

1<sup>mo</sup>, That no presbytery admit any person to probationary trials, but such as are found to be of good report, of sufficient learning, of sound principles, of a pious, sober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the government in church and state, and of whom they have sufficient ground to conceive



conceive that they shall be useful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that without respect of persons, such as are esteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godliness, be kept back from that sacred work.

2do, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licensed, but such as have produced to the professor of divinity at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full course of philosophy at the college, and who have either given close attendance on the divinity-hall for the space of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of the presbytery as students of divinity; or, if their circumstances did not permit them to give close attendance on the hall, have continued to prosecute the study of divinity for six years, and have in that time delivered the usual number of discourses; provided also, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3tio, The General Assembly, considering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of such as follow the study of divinity, do earnestly recommend to the presbyteries, professors of divinity, and ministers and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on such students, during the terms above specified. And further, that when any student comes to attend the professor of divinity in any university, he shall produce to the professor, and to the minister of the parish where he is to reside, during the time of his attendance on the profession, a testimonial from the minister of the parish from whence he comes; and when he leaves the profession, he shall carry back testimonials from the minister of the parish, of his grave and suitable behaviour becoming his character; and from the professor, testimonials certifying the same, and also his regular attendance on the diets of the profession, and the time he has attended. And when any professor of divinity shall think fit to recommend a student, in order to probatinary trials, his testimonials shall certify his proficiency in his studies, and his moral character.

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4<sup>to</sup>, The General Assembly do appoint and ordain, That no presbytery admit any student to probationary trials, except such as have resided within their bounds for the space of six months, or do produce to them sufficient testimonials from the presbyteries in whose bounds they have lived, or for the most part resided, expressing, that it is the desire of these presbyteries that these students should be entered upon trials. And such students as come from abroad, shall produce satisfying testimonials from the professors under whom they studied; and the time of their being abroad shall be accounted a part of the six years; but none of these students shall be entered upon trials for the space of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5<sup>to</sup>, When any student is proposed to a presbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the proposal shall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the said student's qualifications and behaviour; and the presbytery shall be alone when the proposal is made and judged on; and the General Assembly enjoins all students to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the ministers of the presbytery where they reside, and where they are to pass trials.

6<sup>to</sup>, When the presbytery, after serious enquiry and mature deliberation, shall agree to take the proposed candidate on trials, they shall examine him strictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he possesses the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications necessary for a preacher of the gospel.

7<sup>mo</sup>, The General Assembly appoints the same method to be observed, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any presbytery recommend a student to pass trials in another presbytery.

8<sup>vo</sup>, The General Assembly do also appoint and ordain, That the terms above specified being expired, and testimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the presbytery, before they prescribe any part of public trials, shall write letters to all the presbyteries within the bounds of the synod, acquainting them with their design, two months at least before sitting of the synod; and at the said next meeting of the synod,  
they



they shall also acquaint the synod thereof, and obtain their special advice and judgment in that particular; and, that the members of the said presbytery and synod may be ripely advised thereanent, the General Assembly appoints the said letters to be duly and carefully transmitted to the several presbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the first diet of the synod, to lye on the table till the second or some subsequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any person have any thing to object against the student's being entered on trials for preaching the gospel. Provided always, That in any part of this Church, when synods meet but once a year, a student may be proposed to the synod half a year sooner than would have been competent if the synod had met twice a year.

9<sup>mo</sup>, The General Assembly recommends to presbyteries, that before any student is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Assembly 1711, of such as are to be licensed, be read to them; and that the presbytery take promise of them, that they will subscribe to, and particularly observe the same, in case the presbytery see cause to licence them; and that this promise be recorded in their books.

10<sup>mo</sup>, The General Assembly appoints the public probationary trials of students, who are to be licensed probationers, to be the following, viz. 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in presence of the presbytery, and that previously to all the other parts of public trials. 2. A homily in English on a Scripture text. 3. An exegesis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and sustaining a thesis and dispute thereon. 4. An exercise and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular sermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church history, especially the history of our own Church. *Lastly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11<sup>mo</sup>, The General Assembly, judging it fit that the same method shall be followed in all presbyteries as to questions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licensed; and that the said probationers should not only give sufficient proof of their piety, literature, and



other good qualifications for the sacred ministry, but also come under the strictest engagements to adhere to and maintain the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church : Do therefore enact and appoint, That the questions appointed by act 10th 1711, be put to all such as pass trials ; and likewise that they shall subscribe the *Formula* set down in the said act, before they be licensed to preach the gospel. And the General Assembly strictly prohibits the licensing any person whatsoever, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*, and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12mo, When any presbytery, who, with the synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with that student, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students from any other presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13tio, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licensing any probationer.

14to, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the professors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students in a public meeting annually, at such time, in the month of January, as to them seems most convenient. And all presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts : And it is strictly enjoined, that visitors of presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several presbyteries do observe the same.



XII.

Order respecting the Acts of Assembly,  
and transmitting the same to Synods,  
Presbyteries, and Universities.

*Edinburgh, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1779.*

**T**HE General Assembly, upon considering the petition for James Dickson, printer for the Church, with the report of the Committee thereupon, resolved, That, in place of taking one hundred copies of the printed Acts of Assembly from the printer annually, that they should, for the future, take two hundred copies annually, viz. one for the moderator and one for the clerk of each presbytery; and that a copy for each synod and university should also be delivered annually, and a copy delivered to the keeper of the Advocate's Library, for the use of the Faculty of Advocates: And to prevent expence to the fund in time coming, it is hereby ordered, that the Acts shall, for the future, be left at the Society-hall, and presbyteries, synods, and universities, are desired to send for their copies on or before the first day of December annually; certifying, if they do not send for their copies on or before that day, they will be sent by post at their expence: And farther, when they do send for their copies, they shall send a receipt therefor, that the clerks of Assembly may have evidence of their being delivered.

XIII. Act



## XIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next  
General Assembly.

**T**HE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 25th day of May, in the year 1780.

*Collected and extracted from the Records of the  
General Assembly, by*

GEORGE WISHART, }  
JOHN DRYSDALE, } *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

**TABLE**



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# INDEX or ABRIDGEMENT

O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1779, which are not printed at full length.

*May 20. 1779. Sess. 1st.*

**A**FTER sermon by the Reverend Dr Patrick Grant, minister of the gospel at Urray, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the ministers and elders convened in the Assembly-house ; and, after prayer by the said Dr Patrick Grant, Dr James Gillespie, one of the ministers of St Andrew's, was chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's commission to the Right Honourable George Earl of Dalhousie, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to the Assembly, read, and recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for answering the King's most gracious letter.

Upon a motion, the Assembly appointed a committee to draw up a congratulatory address to his Majesty on the happy event of the birth of another prince ; and at the same time expressing their earnest concern for success to his Majesty's arms in the present war.

A committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from diets thereof ; naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner ; receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries in order to their being recorded.

Committee



*I N D E X 1779.*

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*May 21. 1779. Sess. 2d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

A diet spent in prayer.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their usual places.

Adjournment.

*May 22. 1779. Sess. 3d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, the same was given and read over.

An objection to the substitution in the commission from the presbytery of Zetland heard: The Assembly sustained the objection, and expunged the substitute member from the roll.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Kirkwall heard: The Assembly sustained the objection, and expunged the member's name from the roll.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The draught of a congratulatory address to his Majesty, on the birth of another prince, &c. brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty, along with the answer to his Majesty's letter.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly.

A



I N D E X 1779.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members, any instructions given to them by their respective synods or presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly, and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The committee for revising commissions appointed to meet in the Assembly-house, at six o'clock this evening.

The committee for bills appointed to meet this evening, at six o'clock, in their usual place.

Resolved to consider on Monday Mr James Lawson's cause.

Adjournment.

*May 24. 1779. Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures produced, and read over.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly, to consider the overtures respecting new erections, called for, produced, and read over.

A committee appointed to consider the overtures anent new erections, and the said report.

Resolved to consider to-morrow the overtures respecting Popery.

The synod-books called for.

A committee named to revise the synod-books of Perth and Stirling.

A



*I N D E X* 1779.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Ross. None of the other synod-books being brought up to this Assembly, resolved that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

Mr Lawfon's cause called, and delayed till Friday, on account of his council not being come to town.

The committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock in the usual place.

Resolved to consider the cause respecting the chapel of Dunfermline, first, after the overtures regarding Popery.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, a quarter before seven, in the usual place.

**Adjournment.**

May 25. 1779. Sess. 5th.

**Sederunt.**

**New commissions produced.**

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read.

Resolved to consider an overture from the synod of Merse  
and Tiviotdale, along with others on the same subject.

The Assembly, agreeable to the resolution of yesterday, proceeded to take under their consideration the overtures transmitted by the committee for overtures to this Assembly, concerning the repeal of the statutes now in force against Popery. (*Vide the end of the Printed Acts.*)

Resolved to hear the cause anent the chapel in Dunfermline to-morrow. And after that the petition of Mr James Wright, in name of the presbytery of Ayr.

**Adjournment.**

May 26. 1779. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

After reading the resolution of yesterday concerning Popery, upon a motion, the Assembly agreed to print a thousand copies thereof, to be ready in two days, and to lye in the Society-hall to be called for by the members of Assembly, to be carried by them to their re-

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I N D E X 1779.

pective places of abode, in order to quiet and satisfy the minds of the people.

Resolved to take in the cause of Peter Lumfden, tenant in Peel, after the petition of Mr Wright; and after that the cause of Mr Smith, student of divinity.

A committee appointed to consider a motion made by Dr Wishart.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly on the Enzie fund, and for concluding a bargain with his Grace the Duke of Gordon, respecting the lands belonging to that fund, called for, given in, and read over; and a committee appointed, in conjunction with the presbytery of Fordyce, to finish that transaction, and to authenticate the proper deeds to be made out accordingly; and authorised the Moderator, in name of the Assembly, to write a letter of thanks to his Grace, for the great attention he has been pleased to pay to the interest of religion in that corner of the country.

The reports of the committee on new erections called for, given in, and read; and appointed them to meet again to-morrow at six o'clock in the evening, and added some new members to said committee.

An appeal of the donors for purchasing and building the meeting-house in Dunfermline, occupied by the late Mr Thomas Gillespie; of the Magistrates and Town-council of Dunfermline; of the Guildry of Dunfermline; and of 118 heads of families, parishioners of Dunfermline, from sundry proceedings and sentences of the reverend presbytery of Dunfermline, on the 5th and 12th days of May 1779, refusing to grant the desire of the donors petition, heard; the sentence of the presbytery reversed, the desire of the petitioners of erecting a chapel of ease granted, and a committee appointed to consider the conditions and provisos mentioned in the petition, and whether any of them should be varied, or others annexed, and to report their opinion to-morrow.

**Adjournment.**

May 27. 1779. Sess. 7th.

**Sederunt.**

**New Commission produced.**

The report of the committee appointed to consider the conditions



conditions and provisos mentioned in the petition for the donors, &c. for purchasing and building the meeting-house in Dunfermline, occupied by the late Mr Thomas Gillespie, called for, given in, and read over; and the Assembly unanimously agreed to these conditions and provisos. (*Vide printed Acts.*)

It being represented, that many parishes in Scotland had neglected to make the collection for the support of the charity-schools, ordered by the preceeding Assemblies, the Assembly recommended it to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, to send a new copy of the act of Assembly appointing this collection to be made, together with a list of those that are deficient in making the collection, to the Moderator of each presbytery; and renewed the appointment upon deficient presbyteries and parishes to make this collection betwixt and next Assembly.

An appeal of Peter Lumfden tenant in Peel, against a sentence of the synod of Perth and Stirling, read:—

The Assembly, before further procedure in this case, remitted to a committee to consider the same, and appointed them to meet at eight o'clock this evening in the Exchange coffee-house, and to report their opinion to-morrow.

An appeal of Mr James Wright, in name of the presbytery of Ayr, against a sentence of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, reversing a sentence of the said presbytery, heard; the sentence of the synod affirmed.

The Procurator and Agents' accounts produced, and ordered to lye on the table.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1779. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

New Commission produced.

The report of the committee for overtures produced, and read over.

The overture anent persons procuring licences or ordination without the bounds of this Church, enacted into a standing law. (*Vide printed Acts.*)

The



The overture anent licensing probationers ordered to be re-transmitted to presbyteries ; and the members enjoined from the chair to take the same under their consideration at the first meeting of their respective presbyteries, and to pay particular attention thereto.

The overture anent the ordination of elders ordered to be re-transmitted to presbyteries.

A committee named to consider the overture anent Chapels of Ease, appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, in the Exchange coffee-house, and to report to-morrow.

The report of the committee appointed to consider Dr Wishart's accounts called for, produced, and read :—  
Dr Wishart discharged of the sums received by him ;  
And Mess. Mansfield, Ramsay, and Co's note for L. 101 : 16 : 8, with L. 20 : 11 : 9, which had been received by Dr Wishart, as part of collections formerly made for the behoof of Irish students, being put into Dr Drysdale's hands, ordered Dr Drysdale to be accountable for the said note and sum of money to the Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to consider Peter Lumsden's cause, called for, produced, and read ; the sentence of the synod of Perth and Stirling affirmed.

A letter from Mr James Bryson, Moderator of the synod of Ulster in Ireland, to the Moderator of this Assembly, produced and read. The General Assembly having considered the same, they recommended it to all presbyteries carefully to avoid doing any thing that tends to disturb the peace and union of the synod of Ulster ; and appointed their Moderator to write a letter to the Moderator of that synod, expressing their resolution to preserve the peace and union of the synod as far as lyes in their power.

Dr Webster gave in a report of his success in getting the new act relating to the fund established for a pension to ministers' widows, &c. passed, which was ordered to be recorded ; and the Moderator, at the Assembly's desire, returned their thanks to Dr Webster for the care and attention with which he had executed this important business ; and also to his Grace the Commissioner, for the assistance which he had been pleased to grant in carrying it on ; and they appointed their  
Moderator



I N D E X 1779.

Moderator likewise to express their thanks to Mr Dundas of Castlecarry, for his attention in that affair.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly on the psalmody given in and read ; and the committee renewed.

A petition for Mr Dickson printer to the Church, produced and read ; and the consideration thereof delayed till to-morrow.

An appeal of Mr James Lawson student in divinity, from a sentence of the presbytery of Auchterarder, refusing to proceed in Mr Lawson's trials, heard : The cause *remitted* to the presbytery of Auchterarder, and they appointed to take Mr Lawson on trials before the meeting of next General Assembly ; and, in case any objections are offered to his discourses, or to his conduct, they shall give him an opportunity of being heard on these objections before passing any judgment upon them.

Resolved to take in John Swanston's cause after that of Mr Smith.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1779. *Sess. 9th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the trustees for the widows' fund produced, and ordered to lye on the table for the perusal of the members.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson, and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 500 Sterling, and appointing that he should have credit in his next account for the sum of L. 29 : 7 : 11 <sup>8</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving the account of James Edmonstone Agent for the Church, and appointing that he should have credit in his next account for the sum of L. 50 : 11 : 2 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The report of the committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, given in and read ; which being considered by the Assembly, they found that the present situation of the fund can admit of no further burden thereon ; and they ap-

M

pointed



I N D E X 1779.

pointed the Procurator to pay off the debts already on the public fund in the order in which they stand in the list.

The Assembly appointed all the new applications, with the Procurator's opinions thereon, to be kept by their clerks, in order to be first considered in future Assemblies, when the fund shall be in a condition to afford any assistance to the respective claimants.

Act appointing that, in future, only two copies of the annual proceedings or registers of Assembly shall yearly be wrote out; one whereof for the university of St Andrew's, and the other to remain in the office.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the commission, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the royal bounty register given in and read; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A committee named for managing the royal bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The synod-book of Ross attested; but the Assembly recommended to the members of that synod to be more accurate in engrossing their minutes, and particularly to avoid interlineations and erasements.

The synod-book of Perth and Stirling attested.

The General Assembly ordered all the synods, whose books had not been sent up to this Assembly, to send them up to the next General Assembly.

A committee named to converse with Mr James Dickson printer, concerning his petition; and appointed them to report on Monday.

An account due to John Balfour stationer to the Church, ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the overture anent Chapels of Ease, called for, produced, and read; the Assembly appointed a committee to prepare an overture on this subject to be laid before next General Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the overture anent new erections called for, produced, and read; the Assembly ordered a copy of it to be put into the hands of his Grace the Commissioner.

An



I N D E X 1779.

An appeal of Mr Alexander Coull minister of the gospel of Edinkellie, and of Mr Alexander Smith student in divinity, for his interest, against a sentence of the synod of Murray, delaying to remit to the presbytery of Forres to take Mr Smith on trials, heard: The sentence of the synod *reversed*; and the Assembly *remitted* to the presbytery of Forres to take Mr Smith upon trials according to the rules of the Church, if they shall see cause.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1779. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

The committee appointed by last General Assembly, to consider the overture respecting new erections, renewed, and added some new members thereto, and empowered them to correspond with the board of Annexed Estates, and to report to next General Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the petition of Mr Dickson printer to the Church, called for, produced, and read; the Assembly approved thereof, and ordered accordingly. (*Vide end of the printed Acts.*)

Renewed the committee formerly appointed on the window-tax, with the former powers vested in them.

List of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers' widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The petition of Mr James Brodie minister at Canisbay, craving aid out of the public funds, read, in consequence of a motion. The Assembly recommended to the presbytery of Caithness to take Mr Brodie's case under consideration, and use the most habile methods of procuring him relief; and recommended to the Procurator and other gentlemen of the law, members of Assembly, to give him their aid in carrying on his process.

All



## I N D E X 1779.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge, and finally determine therein.

Protestations admitted.

A committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read, the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, and singing a psalm.

F I N I S.

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## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

*THOSE* who want their *setts* of the Acts of Assembly made complete, will please apply to the Printer for the Church.

*A few copies still remain complete, from the 1690 to the present time, and a re-publication of the Acts, previous to that period, in one volume 8vo; so that presbyteries or sessions who have no Acts, may be supplied, if they give their orders soon.*

*Also, in one volume 12mo, Dundas's Abridgement of the Acts of Assembly.*

*Likewise, in one volume 8vo, Pardovan's Collections of the Acts of Parliament and Assembly, relating to the discipline, Government, &c. of the Church of Scotland.*